

## MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

### AMENITIES AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the **Amenities and Open Spaces Committee** held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015 in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough**, at 7.00 pm.

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<b>PRESENT</b>	Councillor G. Loosmore Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson Councillor S. Dobson Councillor B. Castle Councillor Mrs M. Rose Councillor B. Lam Councillor L. Farrell Councillor J. Cook Councillor A. Light	Chairman Town Mayor
<b>ALSO PRESENT</b>	Councillor A. Kirk Wilson Councillor N. Barrett-Morton Councillor M. Hall Mrs S. Parker Mrs D. Whitehall Mr. R. Beale  Mrs. S. Pryor Mr T. Millet Plus 1 member of the public	Observing Observing Observing Town Clerk Administrator Grounds and Estates Manager The Adviser Marlborough News Online

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**624/14 APOLOGIES**  
There were no apologies for absence.

**625/14 DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST**  
There were no declarations of interest.

**626/14 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
The Chairman reminded Members that the Marlborough Food & Drink Festival was taking place on The Common over the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May.

The emergency felling of a tree was required in Stonebridge Meadow. There were several large cracks in a black poplar tree and the Grounds and Estates Manager, Action for the River Kennet (ARK) and a tree surgeon had judged it to be dangerous. The cost of the work will be borne jointly between ARK and Marlborough Town Council.

The Grounds Team would shortly be refreshing floral bedding resulting in some plants being removed such as tulips, polyanthus and primroses. They would be made available to members of the public on the basis that mass removal meant good condition could not be guaranteed, although keen gardeners may be able to nurse them to full health.

The Chairman wished the Mayor Elect, Councillor Mrs. Margaret Rose, well for her upcoming Mayoral year.

627/14

### **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015 be approved and signed as a correct record.

628/14

### **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The contents of the Town Clerk's report were noted. The following points were also raised:

- Bowls Club – S106 funding linked to the development of a Care Home in Salisbury Road had been allocated to the Bowls Club and it was not clear how this money was to be spent. The Town Clerk to check this with the Club and find out whether the funding was to be spent on improvements to land around the Club such as the proposed car park which was in the ownership of the Town Council. If so, to also check that this would still meet the criteria of the S106 Agreement.
- FP 39 - Footbridge at Jubilee Field, Manton – work was ongoing and the bridge project almost complete. This was primarily a planning issue but, a progress update could certainly be included in the next Town Clerk's Report.

The Chairman thanked the Ground & Estates Manager and his team for their work.

629/14

### **STONEBRIDGE MEADOW**

The Minutes of a recent partnership meeting between the Town Council and Action for the River Kennet (ARK) were noted. The Committee considered a draft Management Plan and recommendations by the Town Clerk about future management of the meadow, enlarging the membership of the Stonebridge Management Committee and the revision of the Declaration of Trust document.

**RESOLVED:** to recommend to Full Town Council on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015 that the number of representatives for MTC and ARK to appoint to the Stonebridge Management Committee shall be a total of five for each organisation with four to attend any meeting as voting members. Officers from the Town Council and ARK to attend as non-voting members. Also, that ARK be approached to discuss the potential of opening the meetings to members of the public as observers.

**RESOLVED:** that suggested amendments to the draft Management Plan (as annotated on the document marked May 2015 V2), together with questions and points raised at this meeting, be discussed with the Management Committee at its next meeting prior to final adoption at Full Town Council on 29<sup>th</sup> June. Questions and issues raised were:

**Page 5 – Objective – To improve and increase public access –** More explanation of increased public access to the river was needed by Members to fully understand this. Whether footpaths could be laid out and maintained such that the public would have a greater view of the river throughout and what exceptions to this there would be (e.g. restricted areas identified as critical habitat for wild brown trout.)

**Page 5 – Objective - To reduce litter and dog fouling –** Members recognised that dog fouling posed a significant problem and asked whether certain areas could be designated as “dog free” to ensure safe areas for the general public for play, picnics etc. Further clarification around the legislation governing this should be investigated.

**Page 6 – Objective: Maintain scrub and tall herb vegetation (A)** – Members would like clarification on whether this refers to the area marked as ‘A’, or the area marked ‘Buffer strip with beetle bank’ on the illustrative master plan.

**Page 7 – Objective: Create a varied hedge to provide food, habitat and visual interest** – There were concerns that the hedge could easily impinge on the footpath without proper management and that this management responsibility should be assured in future management reviews. (Future management should also include associated financial implications). Clarification was also sought on whether parts of the newly planted hedge were to be moved.

**Page 7 – Objective: To create a wetland** – Assurances to be sought about safety due to the large number of flints around the wetland area and also in relation to the proposed dipping platform. Could a volunteer stone picking session be arranged and a more detailed plan of the boardwalk be produced?

**RESOLVED:** to delegate to the Town Clerk to ask Marlborough Town Council’s solicitor to advise on a review the Declaration of Trust, with particular attention to:

**Sections 1 and 2:** Definition of Trustees

**Section 5.1:** whether the document could read “The Property shall be managed on a day to day basis by the Management Committee which shall draw up and oversee the implementation of an annual management plan to first be ratified by ARK and the Amenities & Open Spaces with more substantive matters referred to Town Council committees.

**Section 5.2:** the ambiguities around the definition of responsibilities and how disagreements could be solved.

630/14

#### **DOG FOULING**

The minutes of a recent meeting between the Town Council, Wiltshire Council officers and local residents were noted. Dog fouling had been identified as a high priority and Members agreed to support activities around resolving issues.

**RESOLVED:** to delegate to the Town Clerk the recommended actions set out as 4-8 in her report and that a follow-up meeting be arranged to include, if possible, the Dogs Trust.

*The member of the public left the meeting*

631/14

#### **THE OLD VICTORIAN CEMETERY**

The Committee noted a report by the Town Clerk and considered recommendations about the restoration of the Old Victorian Cemetery. Cllr. Castle thanked the Mayor Elect for her enthusiasm in driving this project forward. Suggested short term actions included the provision of equipment for volunteers, health and safety training, the production of a leaflet and re-siting a bench currently very close to the Paupers Grave marker stone.

**RESOLVED:** that the short term works set out in the report be taken forward within the limits of the agreed budget line and that the Town Clerk seeks clarification on bye-laws surrounding dogs so that signage can be discussed at the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015.

632/14

**SOUTH WEST IN BLOOM (SWiB)**

Cllr. Hannaford-Dobson gave a verbal update about Marlborough’s entry into South West in Bloom. The Committee was meeting regularly and Cllr. Rose thanked Marlborough News Online for their generous sponsorship of £500. An application for funding was also being taken to the next Area Board. Three project areas were being entered in the associated “*It’s Your Neighbourhood*” competition. Organisers for one of these – Manton in Bloom – were also applying for funding. Members of the Marlborough Gardening Association were involved too and would be supplying and maintaining planters.

The long term vision was for Marlborough in Bloom to be self-supporting with minimum funding and eventually less assistance from Marlborough Town Council. It was hoped that the town’s open spaces as maintained by the Grounds Team would continue to be included in future entries.

633/14

**LITTER AT THE RECREATION GROUND, SALISBURY ROAD**

On 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015 Claire Perry, MP, wrote to the Town Clerk about concerns raised by a local resident about litter at the Recreation Ground. A holding reply had been sent. Main points of discussion were that:

- Wiltshire Council appeared to no longer be clearing litter around the former Youth Centre (most particularly the car park). This was being blown onto the Recreation Ground. Cllr Dobson agreed to look into this with WC officers
- A regular litter clearance cycle was in place and replacing or increasing the quantity of litter bins was not likely to resolve the issue as bins were rarely full.
- Better engagement with users of the Recreation Ground was needed through visits to local schools, highlighting of the cost of litter picking to the community and encouraging the use of the Wiltshire Council’s “Report It” app to quickly highlight litter and dog fouling hot spots.

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Clerk should send a letter to Claire Perry, MP highlighting litter picking procedures already in place and that no further bins would be purchased.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed ..... Date .....  
Chairman